

BALLARAT NEWS

Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide Proposals In April this year, the bishops of Victoria published a pastoral letter in response to proposals to introduce legislation allowing euthanasia and assisted suicide. As a follow-up to that letter, a group of lay people has prepared a flyer encouraging people to write to parliamentarians and express their opposition to such legislation. Copies of the flyer have been made available for your consideration. You are invited to write to parliamentarians as suggested.

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BALLARAT FOUNDATION In June the foundation held its 31st Annual General Meeting, so it is timely to remind parishioners of the purpose of the Foundation and to update the diocese on the activities of the Foundation during 2016.

The Foundation was established in 1986 to raise funds to assist the Bishop fund the pastoral needs of the Diocese of Ballarat. Over the last twenty years in particular there has been a shift in the demographics of our diocese with declining population in many rural areas, population growth in regional towns, and a continuing decrease in mass attendance. Our diocese comprises 51 Parishes with 109 church communities within those Parishes. We are faced therefore with an increasing challenge to provide services to people within our Diocese. The Foundation is in its 32nd year of assisting the Bishop in providing these services.

The objectives of the Foundation are:

to financially assist the Diocese in its mission to grow Christ's kingdom here on earth; to financially assist the charitable works of the Diocese; and to provide for relief, support and comfort of those suffering from disadvantage within the Diocese, inter alia from unemployment, low income, age, physical or mental disability, language difficulties or social or economic isolation.

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Parishes of St Columba's and Our Lady Help of Christians

Communities of Ballarat North, Learmonth, Lexton, Miners Rest, Waubra, Wendouree



306 Gregory St, Ballarat North Phone: 5331 7131

Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Web: ballarat.catholic.org.au (Select parish)

School Web: www.scballarat.catholic.edu.au

480a Gillies Street, P O Box 192 Wendouree Phone: 5339 2302

Email: wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Web: ballarat.catholic.org.au (Select parish)

School Web: www.olhcwendouree.catholic.edu.au

23rd July, 2017. 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

Parish Priest: Fr Marcello Colasante

Visiting Priest: Fr Barry Ryan

Staff at St Columba's

Pastoral Associate: Judith O'Sullivan

Parish Secretary: Ruth Marquand

Wed 9- 1.30pm, Thurs & Fri 9-2.30pm

Staff at Wendouree

Parish Co-ordinator: Maree Roache
Wed-Friday 9:00am—1:00pm

Exodus Community: 5338 2118

Mass times: St Columba's

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm

Sunday: 10:00 am

Wednesday: 9:30 am

Mass times: Wendouree

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am Rural

10:00 am OLHC

Readings for next weekend:

1 Kgs 3:5-7-12

Ps 118:57.72.76-77.127-130

Rom 8: 28-30

Mt 13:44-52



Today we hear how the Spirit of God dwells in all of us, helping us in our weakness. The first disciples had Jesus to explain the parables; we have the Spirit to enlighten us. It is the Spirit who helps us to interpret the teaching of Jesus and to be receptive to the challenges that they pose.

The presence of sinners in the kingdom of God is often a stumbling block to good people. There will be a time for separation and judgment, but the time is not now. This means that the righteous will have to live with the sinner and, even more challengingly, show them the same kind of concern that they show to others. The presence of sinners does not necessarily erode the quality of the kingdom. Rather, it provides disciples an opportunity to rise to the occasion of generosity and forgiveness.

There are two images of judgment in the readings. The one in the gospel is terrifying and decisive. The wicked are bound together into bundles and readied for burning. We must remember that this is a parable. In the first reading and in the psalm response the justice of God is said to be lenient, clement and kind. The power of God is demonstrated not in retribution but in mercy. God is said to be 'merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in kindness and fidelity', and repentance is a very real possibility. This is the image that gives us hope. © Dianne Bergant CSS



Responsorial Psalm: Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Nell Ross

Anniversaries: We remember: Bob Smerdon

We pray: for the sick of our Parishes especially Blake Dridan (pupil at St Columba's School), Lesley Bigarelli

ST COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWS

Baptism Today we welcome into our community, Emily May, daughter of Lauren and Frank Griffin, who will be baptized during the 10am Mass on Sunday. May she grow in faith in her loving family and our Catholic Community.



Opening of the New offices We are now in the new offices behind the Church, please call in and visit. There will be a blessing and an opportunity to walk through after the 10am Mass today.

First Eucharist Children who are in Grade 4 or older and who have been baptised Catholic are now invited to enrol in the First Eucharist preparation program. There will be a parent information/enrolment session held on Wednesday 2nd August, 2017 in the School Hall at 7.00pm. It is an expectation that a parent/guardian attends the information/enrolment session as part of your commitment in supporting your child through the program. If you have any questions please contact Judith in the Parish Office 5331 7131.



ODC please take your copy of the latest "Our Diocesan Community" which is available in the foyer.

Financial Report attached to this weekends bulletin is a copy of the Parish Financial Report for the year ending 30 June 2017.

Christmas in July Lunch will be held on Thursday 27th July at 12:30pm at the Bluebell Hotel in Howitt Street, Wendouree. Senior meals \$17 for 2 courses or \$22 for 3 courses. Includes Turkey & Ham, roast vegies, plum pudding with custard for dessert. See flyer on notice board for more details. Please leave your name on the sheet in the foyer. Any enquiries please ring Judith in the office.



2019 Year 7 Enrolment at St Patrick's College Applications close on Friday December 1, 2017. A College prospectus can be downloaded from <http://www.stpats.vic.edu.au/en/prospective-families/prospectus/>

Thankyou for your support thankyou to the Parish of St Columba's for its wonderful generosity with the annual St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. It is with real delight and appreciation that we can announce that some \$4,000 was raised. Through your generosity we have been able to ease the financial burdens of some of the less fortunate in Ballarat – at the time of the year when many need it most. In particular, we have been able to pay bills and provide food vouchers for some who would otherwise go without. On their behalf, we thank you.

Thanksgiving		<i>We thank you for your generous support</i>	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 741.65		
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 2110.00	Average for this financial year	\$2252.00

THIS WEEKEND	SATURDAY 22nd July	SUNDAY 23rd July	What's on this week: Wednesday @ 9.30am Mass Thursday @ 12.30 Lunch at Bluebell Thursday @ 7pm PPC meeting in the new office
WELCOMER	Mary Dinning	Judith O'Sullivan	
COMMENTATOR	Jennifer Adams	Bruce Chapman	
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Leo Schreenan	Terry Grano	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Volunteer	Irene Monigatti	
GIFTS	Jan Mullally & volunteer	Pat & Bernie Kenna	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Trish Simmons, Maureen Eddy, Kathleen Keogh	Michael Burke, Mary Kennedy, Chris Haintz	
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Bruce Chapman	
SACRISTAN	Maree Phelan	Maureen van der Ploeg	

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH NEWS

Exodus Community: There is a basket for donations of canned, dried or packaged food stuffs to be collected by the members of the Exodus community. This basket is available in the church foyer. Donations will be gratefully accepted. Toiletries would be greatly appreciated.



Raffle Tickets are available for the support of our Seminary. First prize: Travel Voucher to the value of \$15,000. Cost per ticket: \$10. Please contact Joyce Jackson.

First Communion for parishioners of OLHC parishes will commence with a parent information evening on Wednesday, August 16th at 7:00 pm in the parish Meeting Room. OLHC First Communion dates are set for Saturday, September 17th at 6:00 pm and Sunday September 23rd at 10:00 am. ,



Nazareth House Coffee Party this Friday 28th July commencing at 1:30 pm. Devonshire Tea, Entrance Prizes, Fancy Good & Produce Stall, Spinning Wheel.

Stewardship Update: For the year 1 July 2016—30 June 2017 the contributions received using envelopes, direct debit, credit card and loose money was \$ 78,397 which ensures that we meet all our commitments. Well done! Giving Statements for the last financial year are now available for collection. Enquiries to Chris Pearce 0419178919

Updated **Church Cleaning Rosters** are available in the sacristy. Please collect for your information.

2019 Year 7 Enrolment at St Patrick's College Applications close on Friday December 1, 2017

If you are considering a Catholic education for your son, St Patrick's College offers an education delivering academic excellence, a strong focus on social justice, sports, and the arts. Enrolments for 2019 Year 7 are now open and you are invited to submit your sons application by Friday December 1, 2017. **Applications for 2019 close on Friday December 1 with interviews to take place in early March, 2018.**

Please contact the Registrar, Ms Caitlin Bennett for further information on 5331 1688.

Collections:	<i>We thank you for your generous support</i>		
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$	700.95	
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$	1,158.00	
	Direct Debit	\$ 204.00	
	Loose Money	\$ 73.60	Weekly Average: \$ 1,557.00

NEXT WEEKEND	6pm	10:00 am	What's on this week
LEADER of SONG	Corrie Harbour	Sue Searls	
MINISTER of the WORD	Jan Godfrey	Bill Jones	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Lia Yu, Joyce Jackson, Des Lloyd, Mavis McNulty + 1 volunteer	Helen Rieniets, Margaret White, Ely Green + 2 volunteers	
SACRISTAN	Joyce Jackson	Robyn Clark	
COUNTERS		Brendan Curran, Geoff & Trish Doery	
CHURCH CLEANING	Tony & Ena Bruty		
Rural Communities 8:30 am	This Weekend -Learmonth	Next Weekend— Lexton	
Minister of Word:	Bill Keating	Lexton	
Minister of Eucharist :	Clare Mullane	Kerryn Gallagher	
Church Cleaning:	Sharon & Marty Moran	Bev Hayward	